

Serial No.: 10/036,991
Attorney Docket No.: F-424

Patent

Amendment To The Specification

Please amend the specification as shown below.

Cross Reference to Related Applications

[000] Reference is made to commonly assigned co-pending patent applications: Ser. No. 10/036,983, Attorney Docket No. F-423 filed December 31, 2001~~herewith~~ titled SYSTEM FOR DETECTING THE PRESENCE OF HARMFUL MATERIALS IN AN INCOMING MAIL STREAM in the name of William Ryan et al.; Ser. No. 10/035,541, Attorney Docket No. F-425 filed December 31, 2001~~herewith~~ titled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR OUTSORTING SUSPECT MAIL FROM AN INCOMING MAIL STREAM in the name of William Ryan et al., now U.S. Patent No. 6,740,836; and Ser. No. 10/035,546, Attorney Docket F-426 filed December 31, 2001~~herewith~~ titled SYSTEM FOR SANITIZING AND SORTING MAIL in the name of William Ryan et al.

Please replace the Abstract of the Invention section as follows:

Abstract of the Invention

~~A An embodiment of the system including of the present invention~~ generally comprises a mailpiece sorting apparatus which includes a feeder, an OCR scanner, a mailpiece transporter, a sanitizer and compartments or bins for receiving sorted mailpieces, an optical character recognition system ~~(OCR)~~ for reading addressee information, an addressee database, and a personal computer ~~(PC)~~ or microprocessor based control system is described. In an illustrative example ~~embodiment of the present invention~~, mailpieces are feed, singulated and sanitized. In another example, ~~embodiment of the present invention~~ mailpieces are fed, singulated, sanitized and sorted. In another example, ~~embodiment of the present invention~~ the system is contained in a sanitization area and clean room. The system provides for sanitization of mailpieces so as to help deter delays in incoming mail

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delivery caused by the presence of life harming material and ~~sanitize~~ sanitization of
the mail so as to protect the intended recipients from harm.